Mercury pollution

1873. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to set up 50 Mercury Disposal Centres across the country to stop mercury pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the step being taken to stop mercury pollution?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) For evolving policy for safe management of mercury from Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) including safety in manufacture, usage and disposal and creation of public awareness a Task Force has been constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on 14.8.2007. A Technical Committee has also been constituted by the Central Pollution Control Board on 27th August, 2007 to recommend measures, standards and guidelines for safe usage and disposal of CFLs.

Pamba action plan

1874. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which Pamba Action Plan in the State of Kerala was approved by Union Government;

(b) the details of the Action Plan;

(c) the details of implementation till date; and

(d) the reasons for the inordinate delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The project for abatement of pollution of River Pamba at Sabrimala and Pamba in Kerala was approved for an amount of Rs. 18.45 crore as Pamba Action Plan under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in May, 2003. The works included under the Plan are; construction of sewage treatment plants, bathing ghats, community toilets and solid waste management. The Central and State Government's share in the project cost is Rs. 12.92 crore and Rs.5.53 crore. Against the Central share, funds amounting to Rs.1.75 crore have been released to Government of Kerala for execution of approved works. The State Government has reported an expenditure of about Rs.85.0 lakhs only towards implementation of the plan. The execution of sanctioned work is slow on account of non-availability of forests land. According to State Government, the process of acquisition of land is in progress.

Contamination of Yamuna

1875. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the water of Yamuna river is contaminated to such an extent that it is harmful even to sericulture and vegetables irrigated by its water;